



MORE WATER AND SECURITY FOR CALIFORNIANS ACT

FROM THE OFFICE OF REP. JIM COSTA

Representing California's 16th District

On Thursday, May 9, Rep. Jim Costa introduced the More Water and Security for Californians Act, which would significantly increase the water supply in the Valley. Farmers and growers who receive water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) would see greater water security under Costa's legislation.

The More Water and Security for Californians Act will:

- Provide Congressional direction to implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA);
- Restore operational flexibility to California water projects; and
- Provide reasonable protection to threatened species.

What about the Endangered Species Act?

The Congressional direction provided to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service would address the concerns identified by the U.S. Eastern District Court and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Specifically:

- Establishing flow regimes for water moving towards the pumps at the least restrictive end of the range set forth in the biological opinions;
- Preventing reductions of water exports through implementation of an inflow to export ratio on the lower San Joaquin River, except as required by a state water rights decision; and
- Preventing reductions of water exports through implementation of salinity regimes to provide for and manage smelt habitat in the Fall.

Support for More Water and Security for Californians Act:

Westlands Water District

San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority

Friant Water Authority

Madera Irrigation District

Latino Water Coalition

Paramount Farms

Grape and Tree Fruit League

Why it Matters:

Joe Del Bosque, Owner, Empresas Del Bosque: "As a farmer and employer of many farm workers who depend on water for our crops, I appreciate this effort by Congressman Costa to bring a little more security to our water supply. Until we can build new infrastructure for storage and conveyance, we will be subject to droughts such as the one we are suffering this year. Congressman Costa's bill will give us a short term solution for our farms to survive, and for our farm workers to sustain their jobs."

Tom Birmingham, General Manager, Westlands Water District: "The enactment of this legislation will provide much needed certainty for farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. This year, Westland Water District lost 195,000 acre feet of water because of restrictions imposed under the Delta Smelt Biological Opinion. Had this legislation been in effect, Westlands would not have lost this water and our allocation this year would be 40 or 45 percent compared to the existing allocation of 20 percent."